

Lesson Info

Lesson Number	342
Lesson Date	1994-08-09
Submitting Organization	MSFC

Similiar Lessons

Orbiter Compartment Overpressurization	1992-08-21
Displacement Leak Detector	1992-08-05
End-to-End Testing	2000-03-25
Space Shuttle Program/Orbiter/Crew Escape System	2001-02-01
ACTS Pyro Separation Band Anomaly (Shuttle Orbiter)	1994-03-24
Postlanding Orbiter Compartment Vapor Sampling	1992-10-05
Pyrotechnic Shock Testing	1999-02-01
Payload Bay Duct Heater Overtemp	1992-08-20
LO2/LH2 Vent and Relief Position Indicator Switch	1992-10-28
Lifting Portable Purge Units	1992-05-08

Subject

Critical Hardware Functional Verification

Abstract

None

Driving Event

On the STS 51/TOS mission, during payload deployment, commands intended to initiate only the primary SUPER*ZIP explosive cord actually resulted in the simultaneous firing of both the primary explosive cord and back-up explosive cord. This simultaneous explosive cord firing resulted in the rupture of a SUPER*ZIP containment tube and the release of contaminants and high energy debris into the orbiter cargo bay.

Lesson(s) Learned

All payload systems having catastrophic hazard potential for orbiter/crew as a result of operations in or near the orbiter must use hardware and procedures that have been submitted to a rigorous verification program to verify that the functionality of the system fulfills the safety and design requirements objectives.

Recommendation(s)

Perform an end to end systems engineering evaluation utilizing end to end functional testing or simulated testing to verify that the functional design is compatible with the requirements at all interfaces and to assure proper system performance and prevent loss or misapplication of safety critical functions.

Evidence of Recurrence Control Effectiveness

With the end to end testing of the functionality of a system, there is a higher probability of assurance that this type anomaly will be detected and resolved prior to flight.

Program Relation

N/A

Program/Project Phase

No project/program listed

Mission Directorate(s)

None specified

Topic(s)

No topic(s) listed